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(a) transfecting human mesencephalon cells plated on a first surface and in a first growth medium that [permit] permits proliferation with DNA encoding a selectable marker and an externally regulatable growth-promoting [gene] protein; and

(b) selecting an adherent monolayer of the transfected cells on a second surface and in a second serum-free growth medium that [permit] permits attachment and proliferation, and therefrom producing a conditionally-immortalized human mesencephalon cell in which the growth-promoting protein is regulated by an external factor, such that suppression of the growth promoting protein results in differentiation of the cell into neurons.

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6. (Amended) A conditionally-immortalized human mesencephalon neural precursor cell capable of differentiation into neurons, wherein the cell is transfected with DNA encoding a growth-promoting protein that is regulated by an external factor, such that suppression of the growth promoting protein results in differentiation of the cell into neurons, and wherein the cell grows as an adherent monolayer.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-15, 23 and 24 are pending. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the present invention. In particular, these claims have been amended to recite that the transfected cells grow as an adherent monolayer. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the specification at page 7, line 22 and within Figure 1A. Claims 1 and 6 have further been amended to recite that the growth-promoting protein is regulated by an external factor, such that suppression of the growth promoting protein results in differentiation of the cell into neurons. Support for this amendment may be found at page 5, line 24, and page 8, lines 4-7, of the specification. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to correct typographical errors and to recite that the cells are selected in serum-free medium. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 7, lines 14-19, of the specification as filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-15 and 23-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner believes that the phrase "conditionally-